

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 181875 TOSEC 190052

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TO USDEL SECRETARY FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 181875 TOSEC 190052

NODIS

FOL RPT CAIRO 9945 ACTION SECSTATE 22 JUL QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 9945

NODIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR:

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AEMR US LE

SUBJ: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT SADAT TO PRESIDENT FORD RE
BEIRUT EVACUATION

REF: (A) STATE 181222 (B) CAIRO 9876 (C) CAIRO 9892

1. AT 2300 LOCAL FAHMY'S CHEF DE CABINET, USAMA AL-BAZ, CAME
BY THE RESIDENCE TO DELIVER PRESIDENT SADAT'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT
FORD'S LETTER ON THE BEIRUT EVACUATION (REF A). TEXT
OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S LETTER, DATED JULY 22, FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,
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I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER, DATED JULY 22, IN WHICH YOU INFORMED ME OF THE WAY THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE REACTED TO YOUR EMBASSY'S REQUEST IN CONNECTION WITH THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM BEIRUT. AS YOU WELL KNOW, I CONSIDER THIS SUBJECT A MATTER WHICH DESERVES ATTENTION, FOR I AM QUITE AWARE OF ITS SENSITIVE NATURE. YOUR INTEREST IN PURSUING IT IN FULL DETAIL IS MATCHED BY MY EARNEST DESIRE TO SEE IT HANDLED IN A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT UPON RECEIVING YOUR LETTER, I SENT AN URGENT MESSAGE TO THE PLO LEADERS URGING THEM IN THE MOST UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS TO RESPOND TO YOUR REQUEST FAVORABLY.

I BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL BE COOPERATIVE WITH YOUR EMBASSY STAFF AS THEY HAVE BEEN IN SIMILAR CASES IN THE PAST.

ALTHOUGH I PREFER TO RESERVE JUDGMENT ON THE MATTER UNTIL I RECEIVE THE NECESSARY CLARIFICATIONS, MY INITIAL INCLINATION IS TO DISMISS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PALESTINIANS ARE HOLDING YOUR NATIONALS AS HOSTAGES FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO IN THE PAST AND THERE IS NO REASON WHY THEY SHOULD CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE NOW. YOU MIGHT AGREE WITH ME THAT THEY HAVE HANDLED THIS SUBJECT WITH COMPASSION, UNDERSTANDING AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

AT ANY RATE, YOU MAY REST ASSURED THAT MY MESSAGE TO ARAFAT AND HIS COLLEAGUES WAS VERY CLEAR AND I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE FRUITFUL. I SENT THAT MESSAGE URGENTLY, IN THE SAME SPIRIT THAT PROMPTED YOU TO WRITE TO ME ON THE SUBJECT. I APPRECIATE YOUR RENEWED PLEDGE TO WORK WITH ME TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS.

MOHAMMED ANWAR EL SADAT
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EILTS

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To: SECRETARY
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